

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 092316

42

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY L/AF:BKHUFFMAN:CHG

APPROVED BY AF - AMB. EASUM

AF/C - MR. COHEN

S:LSEAGLEBURGER

S/S - MR. GAMMON

----- 037916

O 041649Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092316

EXDIS TOSEC 241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, GB

SUBJECT: GABONESE DESIRE TO PURCHASE SECOND DC-8

TOSEC FROM EASUM

1. FOLLOWING IS BACKDROP OF LEGAL AND OAU CONSIDERATIONS
AFFECTING DECISION ON SALE OF SECOND DC-8 TO GABON.

2. PRESIDENT BONGO REQUESTED FIRST DC-8 IN 1972 FOR HIS
OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND COMMERCIAL USE. EXPORT LICENSE ISSUED
BY COMMERCE WAS SPECIFICALLY CONDITIONED ON RECEIPT OF
ASSURANCES FROM GABONESE CONSIGNEE QUOTE AFFRETAIR UNQUOTE
THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE USED IN RHODESIA TRADE. SUCH
ASSURANCES REPRESENTED LEGITIMATE USG DEMAND IN VIEW OF A)
SANCTIONS PROHIBITION AGAINST A SALE THAT WOULD PROMOTE
RHODESIAN TRADE, AND B) REPORTS DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED
THAT LINKED AFFRETAIR WITH RHODESIAN INTERESTS.

3. COMMERCE ALSO INFORMED GOG THAT US POSITION ON LICENSES
FOR FUTURE AIRCRAFT OR SPARE PARTS WOULD REFLECT GABONESE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 092316

COMPLIANCE WITH FOREGOING ASSURANCES.

4. APPROPRIATE WRITTEN ASSURANCES FROM GABONESE COMPANY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CONVEYED TO USG THROUGH GOG, HAVING BEEN ENDORSED BY GABONESE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT BONGO.

5. FOLLOWING CONSUMMATION OF SALE, WE RECEIVED RELIABLE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT AIRCRAFT NOT ONLY BEING USED IN RHODESIA TRAFFIC BUT ACTUALLY OWNED BY RHODESIAN COMPANY USING AFFRETAIR AS FRONT. MISUSE OF PLANE GENERATED ADVERSE PRESS COMMENT AND FORMAL NOTES TO USG FROM UN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND OAU EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SALE. PLANE'S USE AND OWNERSHIP IS SUBJECT OF ONGOING COMMERCE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION WHICH TO DATE HAS RESULTED IN DENIAL OF EXPORT LICENSE FOR SPARE PARTS. COMMERCE HAS ALSO RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM UNTESTED SOURCE THAT SECOND DC-8 REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT BONGO WOULD ALSO BE RHODESIAN-OWNED. COMMERCE CONSIDERS THIS INFORMATION ALONE INSUFFICIENT TO PROHIBIT SALE BUT MAY BE ABLE CORROBORATE IT THROUGH CONTINUED INVESTIGATION NOW UNDERWAY. SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO RHODESIAN CONTROLLED ENTERPRISE EVEN IF LOCATED IN GABON CLEARLY PROHIBITED BY SANCTIONS RESOLUTION AND U.S. LAW.

6. DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTERED FOLLOWING FIRST SALE SUGGEST CAUTION CONCERNING BONGO'S REQUEST FOR SECOND AIRCRAFT ON SAME RATIONALE (I.E. OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND COMMERCIAL USE). TO BUY U.S. ADDITIONAL TIME PENDING COMPLETION OF COMMERCE INVESTIGATION AND IN VIEW OF POSSIBLY COMPETING PRESSURES FROM GABON AND OAU, WE DECIDED AFFORD AFRICANS OPPORTUNITY TO SORT PROBLEM OUT AMONG THEMSELVES. WITH BONGO'S CONCURRENCE WE REFERRED ISSUE TO OAU AND ARE ADVISED THAT GOWON NOW CONSIDERING IT IN CAPACITY AS OAU CHAIRMAN.

7. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DEFER ACTION UNTIL OAU RESPONDS TO OUR INQUIRY OR DECLINES TO DO SO. IF NO OBJECTION RECEIVED FROM OAU, WE WOULD CONTEMPLATE APPROVING SALE UNLESS COMMERCE ESTABLISHES THAT SALE WOULD BE ILLEGAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 092316

RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT SALES, EXPORT LICENSES, TOSEC 241
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE092316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BKHUFFMAN:CHG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740108-0309
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740573/aaaacnvf.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GABONESE DESIRE TO PURCHASE SECOND DC-8 TOSEC FROM EASUM
TAGS: ETRN, GB, OAU
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005